

Message Text

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD - MILITARY HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, EGEN, MARR, JA, US

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - JAPAN, JANUARY 26, 1978

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/J - NICHOLAS PLATT

1. WASHINGTON MILITARY PROCUREMENT OFFICE FOR JAPAN (LOU)

I MET 1/25 WITH MOFA SECURITY DIVISION DEPUTY DIRECTOR
TANAKA WHO WAS HERE TO LOOK INTO THE IDEA OF ESTABLISHING A
JAPANESE MILITARY PROCUREMENT MISSION IN WASHINGTON UNDER
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PAGE 02 STATE 021870

THE AMBASSADOR. TANAKA MENTIONED INCREASING JAPANESE
PURCHASES AND A NEED FOR BETTER CONTROL OF THE 10-12 JDA
OFFICIALS STATIONED IN THE U.S., AS PROMPTING HIS STUDY;
HOWEVER, OUR IMPRESSION AFTER TALKING TO HIM WAS THAT MOFA
IS SEEKING TO GAIN TIGHTER CONTROL OF JAPAN'S MILITARY PRO-
CUREMENT AND A BIGGER PIECE OF THE SECURITY AFFAIRS ACTION.
WE EMPHASIZED THE WORTHWHILE ROLE OF THE MDAO, A VIEW WHICH

ACCOMPANYING JAPANESE DEFENSE ATTACHES HEARTILY SECONDED. TANAKA, WHO ALSO VISITED THE PROCUREMENT MISSIONS OF OTHER COUNTRIES HERE (ROK AND FRG), ACKNOWLEDGED THE UTILITY OF THE MDAO TO THE GOJ. WE TOLD TANAKA THAT WE WOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER ANY PROPOSAL WHICH THE GOJ MIGHT CARE TO MAKE.

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2. F-4 CRASH REPORT (CONFIDENTIAL)

THE US-JAPAN JOINT COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED AND PUBLICLY RELEASED A SUBCOMMITTEE'S REPORT ON THE SEPTEMBER 27 YOKOHAMA CRASH OF THE USMC RF-4B. THE REPORT ABSOLVES THE US FLIGHT AND GROUND CREWS OF ANY NEGLIGENCE AND FINDS THAT THE CRASH WAS CAUSED BY IMPROPER ENGINE ASSEMBLY DURING INTERMEDIATE MAINTENANCE IN THE US. THE JAPANESE POLICE ARE STILL FREE TO PURSUE A SEPARATE INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE ANY LIABILITY, BUT MOFA TELLS US THAT EVERYONE ACCEPTS THE REPORT'S FINDINGS. ALSO, SINCE ALL US PERSONNEL INVOLVED WERE ON DUTY STATUS, NO ACTION AGAINST THEM CAN BE TAKEN. ONE RESULT OF THE ACCIDENT IS THAT WE WILL LIKELY FACE PRESSURE FROM THE GOJ FOR GREATER CONTROL OVER CRASH INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURES. THE JAPANESE CLAIM (PROBABLY CORRECTLY) THAT US PRIVILEGES IN THIS RESPECT ARE BROADER IN JAPAN THAN ELSEWHERE.

3. INTERIOR DROPS TTPI INVESTIGATION (CONFIDENTIAL)

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PAGE 03 STATE 021870

INTERIOR HAS NOTIFIED THE DEPARTMENT THAT IT HAS DROPPED ITS PROPOSAL OF PURSUING IN JAPAN A CORRUPTION INVESTIGATION INVOLVING SEVERAL FORMER TTPI OFFICIALS. EMBASSY TOKYO AND THE DEPARTMENT HAD MADE PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERIOR TO SEND INVESTIGATORS TO JAPAN TO LOOK INTO POSSIBLE BRIBERY BY JAPANESE FIRMS. INTERIOR HAS DISCUSSED THE MATTER AGAIN WITH THEIR PRIME SUSPECT AND APPARENTLY CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS LITTLE EVIDENCE OF SIGNIFICANT BRIBES. ADDITIONALLY, SINCE THE GOJ, IN THE ABSENCE OF A U.S. COURT ORDER, WOULD NOT ALLOW INTERIOR TO TAKE SWORN STATEMENTS, NONE OF THE MATERIAL DEVELOPED IN JAPAN COULD BE USED IN COURT. AT ANY RATE, WE CONSIDER THAT WE WENT AS FAR AS WE COULD TO HELP INTERIOR ON THIS ONE AND WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE ASSISTANCE OF OUR EMBASSY AND THE JAPANESE EMBASSY HERE. VANCE

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